

Patent Claims

1. A method for suppressing incorrect messages in monitoring systems for electronic devices, in particular for
5 sensor circuits for motor vehicles, characterized in that fault messages increment a counter, and in that an alarm is not triggered until a predefined counter reading is reached.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
10 the counter is decremented according to time periods without a fault message.
3. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the size of the increments and, if
15 appropriate, of the decrements and the predefined counter reading are preselectable.
4. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the preselectable variables are read out from a nonvolatile
20 memory when the device is switched on.
5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that fault messages which each increment a counter are derived from a plurality of input variables to
25 be monitored, and in that the size of the increments and, if appropriate, of the decrements, the predefined counter reading and limiting values of the variable to be respectively monitored are preselectable for each of the input variables to be monitored.

6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that fault messages are derived using a program running on a processor if one of the input variables to be monitored exceeds respective limiting values which are predefined for it, in that the respective counter is incremented by the fault messages, in that the counter reading is checked to determine whether at least one fault message is present, and in that, if this is the case, a further check is carried out in advance for the relevant input variable.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that, when fault messages are present for a plurality of input variables, the advance further checking of these input variables is carried out according to a previously defined priority list.

8. An arrangement for suppressing incorrect messages in monitoring systems for electronic devices, in particular for sensor circuits for motor vehicles, characterized in that in a microprocessor it is possible to run a program with which fault messages are derived if one of the input variables to be monitored exceeds respective limiting values which are predefined for it, in that the respective counter is incremented by the fault messages, in that the counter reading is checked to determine whether at least one fault message is present, and in that, if this is the case, a further check is carried out in advance for the relevant input variable.